REMARKS

In an Office Action in the parent application, the Examiner required restriction and grouped method claims 28-30 as a separate invention. By this amendment, claims 1-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and method claims 28-30 are presented for examination. Method claim 28 has been amended. New method claims 31-43 have been added.

Prompt and favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe it would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/13/04____

Neil D. Gershon

Reg. No. 32,225

Attorney for Applicant

Rex Medical 2023 Summer St. Suite 2 Stamford, CT. 06905 (203) 348-0377